

Private.

U. S. Branch Mint

New Orleans, Feb 17th 1859.

My dear Sir,

I frequently receive Mexican crude silver which remains very brittle after melting, and only becomes fit to be alloyed for ingots after repeatedly closing it with nitre, or by subjecting it to the parting process, operations necessarily attended with considerable loss.

I believe it was customary, at one time, at least, to give the Minter and Refiner an allowance of two ounces on the thousand on such silver as required toughening, and this seemed the more proper as there is no allowance for wastage on the silver used for the inguantation of the gold, though there is unquestionably some waste in the parting process. This allowance was asked for by me, at times only, and was generally granted by the Treasurers on my showing the necessity of toughening or parting the bullion upon which an allowance was claimed.

My relations with the present Treasurer of this branch are unfortunately such as to forbid me from making any inquiries of him, even on official matters, nor indeed have I felt at liberty, and safe, to go into his office, since the department refused to recognise the appointment of the messenger as Acting Supt, in consequence of which decision the Treasurer ceased to be on speaking terms with me.

I am therefore constrained to presume upon your kindness and to request that you may be pleased to inform me what allowances are given at your mint to the M. & R. on such crude silver as requires toughening.

I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken

Prof. S. C. Booth
U. S. Mint, Phila.

Yours Truly
W. F. Bongano.

17 Feb. 1859

M. F. Bonzano
new Orleans

Asks what is allowance of
wastage to M. & R. at the
Mint for base deposits.

Reply. none
